

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00393 181403Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /058 W
----- 056990 /43

P 172100Z DEC 76
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0842
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0393

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: QUEBEC REACTION TO PREMIERS' MEETING

REF: (A) QUEBEC 0392, (B) QUEBEC 0345

1. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE REACTION IN QUEBEC CITY TO THE
PREMIERS' MEETING HELD DECEMBER 13-14. LE SOLEIL COVERED
MEETING FACTUALLY BUT MADE NO EDITORIAL COMMENT. CARTOONS
SHOWED TRUDEAU AND LEVESQUE ARGUING OVER WHETHER GLASS REPRE-
SENTING FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL FUND-SHARING WAS HALF-FULL OR HALF-
EMPTY. SOME ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO "HISTORIC" NATURE OF
MEETING OF TRUDEAU AND LEVESQUE BUT, AS NOTHING MEMORABLE
WAS SAID, NO COMME T WAS MADE.

2. LOW-LEVEL MINISTRY OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS OSFICIAL,
JEAN-GUY LAURENDEAU, TOLD ME TODAY MEETING PROVOKED NO EXCITE-
MENT IN HIS MINISTRY AS IT WENT JUST EXACTLY AS EXPECTED.
IN HIS WORDS, MEETING WAS ARRANGED BEFORE ELECTION AND ONE
COULD NOT EXPECT NEWLY-ELECTED PQ GOVERNMENT TO CHANGE ITS
COURSE RADICALLY. LEVESQUE PARTICIPATED AS HAVE QUEBEC
PREMIERS OVER TIME, EXCEPT FOR HIS OPENING STATEMENT DESCRIBING
EVENTUAL GOALS OF HIS GOVERNMENT. LAURENDEAU FEELS THAT
MEETING'S "FAILURE" WAS BUILT IN BY THE TERMS OF ITS AGENDA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00393 181403Z

AND ONE COULD EXPECT LITTLE ELSE.
WHAT WAS SURPRISING WAS THAT "COMMON FRONT" OF PROVINCIAL
PREMIERS LASTED AS LONG AS IT DID. QUEBEC TOOK SOME
SOLACE IN FACT THAT IT DID NOT OPPOSE OTTAWA ALONE.

3. COMMENT: ATTENTION IN QUEBEC CITY THIS WEEK HAS BEEN

FOCUSED ON OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND INITIAL STEPS
OF PQ GOVERNMENT. TRUDEAU-LEVESQUE MEETING COULD HAVE OVERTAKEN
LOCAL EVENTS ONLY IF SOME NOTABLE FIREWORKS HAD DEVELOPED AND
CLARIFIED FACT THAT PROLONGED CONTEST OF POLITICAL WILLS WAS
INDEED BEGINNING. AS IT WAS, MEETING IS PERCEIVED HERE AS
NO GREATER SUCCESS NOR FAILURE THAN ANY NUMBER OF PREVIOUS CONFERENCE
S
WHERE NATION'S TAX YIELDS WERE FOUGHT OVER.

4. I HAVE FEELING AFTER DISCUSSION WITH LAURENDEAU AND
JUDGE CLICHE (REFTAL A) AS WELL AS READING OF MONTREAL PRESS
REACTION THAT "COMMON WISDOM" CONCERNING LEVESQUE'S TACTICS IS
DEVELOPING VIEW THAT HE IS GOING TO CONDITION CANADIAN OPINION
ON QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE BEFORE LAUNCHING INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN
IN QUEBEC TO PREPARE FOR REFERENDUM. THIS SCHOOL OF THOUGHT
MAINTAINS THAT LEVESQUE IS WORRIED THAT QUEBEC, AFTER SHAKING
POLITICAL BONDS OF CONFEDERATION, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE
PARTICIPATING IN ITS ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES. ACCORDINGLY, LEVESQUE
PLANS TO GO TO PROVINCIAL PREMIERS AND CANADIAN POPULATION IN
GENERAL - BYPASSING OBSTINATE FEDERALISTS IN OTTAWA - TO
SHAPE CANADIANS' IDEAS AS TO WHAT SHAPE ANTICIPATED NEGOTIATIONS
LEADING TO QUEBEC INDEPENDENCE SHOULD TAKE. THIS WOULD
FORESTALL HARDENING OF POSITIONS WHICH WOULD MAKE EVENTUAL
COMMON MARKET NEGOTIATIONS DIFFICULT. IT WOULD ALSO ASSOCIATE
QUEBEC'S CASE WITH DISSATISFACTION FELT ELSEWHERE WITH
FEDERAL SYSTEM. DURING THIS PERIOD, LEVESQUE COULD RESPOND
TO FEDERAL INITIATIVES BUT LAUNCH NONE OF HIS OWN AND CONCEN-
TRATE ON GOVERNING QUEBEC WELL. REFERENDUM - WHEN IT COMES -
WOULD THEN BE A REQUEST TO QUEBECOIS FOR PERMISSION TO OPEN
NEGOTIATIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE WITH OTTAWA RATHER THAN A JUDGMENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00393 181403Z

ON NEGOTIATIONS ALREADY COMPLETED. THIS OUTLINE VARIES CON-
SIDERABLY FROM WHAT WE KNOW OF PQ PROGRAM AS OUTLINED IN
REFTEL B AND APPEARS TOO SIMPLISTIC. NONETHELESS, IT SEEMS
TO BE THE PREVAILING WISDOM OF THE MOMENT IN WHAT MAY BE A
CONSTANTLY CHANGING SITUATION, GIVEN GOQ'S STILL DEVELOPING
STRATEGY.
GARLAND

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC COOPERATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976QUEBEC00393
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760466-0200
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761233/aaaabbzv.tel
Line Count: 104
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 QUEBEC 392, 76 QUEBEC 345
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: QUEBEC REACTION TO PREMIERS' MEETING
TAGS: PINT, CA, (TRUDEAU, PIERRE-ELLIOTT), (LEVESQUE, RENE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006